



**Radiation Countermeasures Center of Research Excellence**

**Request for Applications**

**Pilot Project Application Submission Deadline: October 16, 2006**

**Background**

The Radiation Countermeasures Center of Research Excellence (RadCCORE) is a network of academic medical centers, National Research Laboratories, and private enterprises. The primary focus of RadCCORE is to bring “deliverables” to the national stockpile to mitigate the effects of radiation induced injury. We have structured this research consortium as a multidisciplinary research center to conduct basic and translational research to identify and evaluate new countermeasures and underlying biology, to move candidate products through the regulatory process, and to provide new or expanded education resources to improve expertise in radiobiology.

For more information on RadCCORE research projects, please visit our website at:  
[www.radccore.org](http://www.radccore.org)

**Description of the Pilot Project Program**

The goal of the Pilot Project Program is to allow investigators that have the potential to translate into deliverables for the treatment of victims of radiation bioterrorism. Successful pilot projects should facilitate subsequent application for independent NIH funding.

The RadCCORE Pilot Project research program will provide up to \$100,000 for one year of support for pilot studies. Investigators will also have access to the RadCCORE core laboratories and facilities. A description of these resources is available at our website.

Applicants are also advised to take advantage of the expertise available within other RadCCORE project teams. Funded investigators will be required to participate in RadCCORE meetings to give periodic progress reports. Successful projects will be eligible for a one time, one year competitive renewal.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree and otherwise meet standard NIH requirements for a R01 application. Junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows may apply under the direction of a senior faculty mentor. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

**Areas of Research Focus**

The pilot project program will not be used to support clinical trials. If you have any questions on the nature or scope of the proposed project, please contact Dr. Mark Dewhirst, Chair of the Developmental Projects Committee (see “Additional Information” section below).

**IMPORTANT:** For this cycle of funding, the preferred topic area for proposals is amelioration of immune depressive effects or reduction in inflammatory effects induced by radiation exposure.

## **Application Format**

Applications should follow the PHS 398 formatting guidelines. Include the following sections. Please note the page limits for each section.

- A. Title, key personnel, abstract (one page)
- B. Biosketch of Principal Investigator and other support (three pages)
- C. Budget (one page)
- D. Budget Justification (one page)
- E. Specific Aims
- F. Background (include a statement of the potential impact of the proposed research on bioterrorism responses)
- G. Experimental Plan (include explicit delineation of milestones and deliverables). A statistical analysis plan must be included. Awardees will be expected to review their experimental plan with the RadCCORE Computation Medicine Core or the institutional equivalent for applicants who are not part of the RadCCORE Center, prior to beginning their studies.

Sections E-G should not exceed 5 pages.

- H. Human Subjects/Animal Studies description (institutional assurances must be in place prior to final funding of any project) (one page)
- I. Literature Cited (no limit, but keep to a minimum)

The applications will be ranked using the following criteria:

- Significance/rationale for study
- Innovation/novelty
- Feasibility of experimental plan
- Potential for translation to a radiation bioterrorism deliverable

## **Budget limits**

Investigators from the Duke University system may apply for a maximum of \$100,000 direct costs and the F&A costs will be covered by the RadCCORE center grant. Investigators at other institutions may apply for a maximum of \$150,000. You will be responsible for paying your institution's F&A costs from this amount. No further support for indirect costs is available.

Investigators from non-US institutions are eligible to apply. However, indirect costs are limited to 8%.

The following budget categories will not be supported:

- Capital equipment (\$5,000 or greater in cost)
- Patient care costs
- Third party sub-contracts

Salary support for established investigators is generally discouraged and will require specific justification.

Investigators should include travel funds sufficient to cover the costs of attending the RadCCORE annual meeting in Durham, NC.

## **Project Monitoring**

Projects will be monitored informally at regular teleconferences and formally reviewed by the Developmental Research Committee every six months. Funded investigators will be expected to attend teleconferences when requested and present updates on progress at the RadCCORE annual meeting.

Formal monitoring will include a progress report detailing the funds expended and the progress toward completion of the specific aims. This progress report following six months of funding serves mainly to allow the Developmental Research Committee to provide helpful feedback, and/or offer advice or assistance. After one year of funding, significant emphasis will be placed on reaching milestones and/or alternative plans of action. Projects seeking a second year of funding may apply for a competitive renewal.

### **Application Submission**

Applications should be submitted by the application due date **5:00 PM (Eastern) October 16, 2006** electronically. Electronic submissions are required. Late or incomplete applications or applications not conforming to the page limits will not be reviewed.

Email: Submit an electronic copy of the application to:

Joel Ross, PhD  
RadCCORE Program Director  
ross0008@mc.duke.edu

**Funding Process:** The pilot project grants follow the NIH “just in time” process. After the announcement of the provisional award, the applicant will need to obtain approval from the relevant institutional committees including IACUC, IRB, and safety committees. In addition, the applicant must then complete the detailed final budget with justification and other support documents and obtain signature by the individual authorized to sign for his/her institution. The completed application will be forwarded to the NIAID program staff for final approval. After NIAID administrative approval, RadCCORE will release funding. Release of funding will depend on timely completion of required documentation by the applicant.

**Additional Information:** For questions about the nature or scope of scientific projects, contact:

Mark W. Dewhirst, DVM, PhD  
Gustavo S. Montana Professor of Medicine  
Box 3455 DUMC  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC 27710  
dewhirst@radonc.duke.edu

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Dewhirst prior to completing the application to discuss the suitability and feasibility of the proposed work. Projects must be within the program research focus areas and must have clearly defined deliverables to be competitive.

For administrative issues contact:

Joel Ross, PhD  
RadCCORE Program Director  
(919) 668-1722  
ross0008@mc.duke.edu